ject feasibility reports submitted by U.P. Government in respect of eight towns in that state under Yamuna Action Plan have been approved.

(b) Schemes pertaining to interception and diversion of waste water, sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, crematoria, development of bathing ghats, afforestation and public participation are to be taken in these towns of U.P. (namely: Sahranpur Muzaffarnagar. Ghazia-bad, NOIDA, Vrindavan, Mathura, Agra & Etawah) under the Yamuna Action Plan. The cost of capital works under Yamuna Action Plan is to be shared equally between the Central and the concerned State Governments. A budget allocation of Rs. 25 crores has been made for the year 1994-95 as the Central Government's share for pollution abatement works under Ganga Action Plan Phase-ll. which includes Yamuna Action Plan as well.

Industrial Plantation to overcome shortage of raw material for paper Industries

5581. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow industrial plantation of trees on degraded forest land to meet the shortage of raw material for the paper industry; and

(b) if so, What are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) In view of the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country, and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expand green cover, discourage encroachment and halt soil denudation, and also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs and to reduce pressure on existing natural forests, the Government is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas, in partnership with State Forest Development Corporations so as to augment the efforts of the Central and State Governments, NGOs and people's co-operatives. The matter was discussed at the recent Conference of Forest Ministers of States and Union Territories and at the National Environment Council. A scheme in this regard will be finalised only after careful assessment of various issues involved, including, interalia, its legal aspects, its likely effect on rights and concessions being enjoyed by local villagers and tribals in forest areas and the requirements of scientific silviculture and biodiversity conservation.

Preservation and promotion of endangered species

5582. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Ministerial level meeting under the auspices of the Global Tiger forum was held on March 3rd and 4th this year; and

(b) if so, what were the precise observations and suggestions made therein, particularly those relating to Indian wildlife, expecially preservation and promotion of the endangered species of Indian wild cat/ tigers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the meeting pertain to the establishment of the Global Tiger Forum for the conservation of the Tiger and its habitat all over its range of which India is an integral part. The broad